

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /080 W
----- 062673

R 101522Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7096
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L 6915

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR, CO, VE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF JUAN CARLOS AND SOFIA TO COLOMBIA, PERHAPS
VENEZUELA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. MADRID PRESS SEPT. 1 PUBLISHED FOREIGN MINISTRY RELEASE
ANNOUNCING KING AND QUEEN HAD ACCEPTED INVITATION OF
COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN TO VISIT COLOMBIA AND
CELEBRATE OCTOBER 12 IN CARTGENA. PRESS COVERAGE REPORTED
THAT PROSPECT OF VISIT, FROM OCTOBER 11-15, WAS RECEIVED
ENTHUSIASTICALLY BOTH IN COLOMBIA AND IN OTHER LA COUNTRIES,
INCLUDING VENEZUELA.

2. LATER PRESS REPORTS HAVE STATED THAT "TECHNICAL STOP"
IN CARACAS (WHICH AT LEAST ONE PAPER SAID WAS NOT TECHNICALLY
NECESSARY) DURING RETURN TO SPAIN OCTOBER 15 WOULD LAST
LONG ENOUGH FOR JUAN CARLOS AND SOFIA TO BE RECEIVED BY
VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ.
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3. COMMENT: THE TRIP SHOULD BE SEEN, OF COURSE, AS
OF A PIECE WITH THE VISIT TO THE US AND THE ONE TO
FRANCE SCHEDULED FOR LATE OCTOBER, IN ALL OF WHICH JUAN
CARLOS SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN HIS IMAGE
A WELL-PLACED FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY
OFFICERS SEPT 9 THAT THE KING HAD WANTED TO MAKE A REAL VISIT
TO LATIN AMERICA (APPARENTLY THE TOUCHDOWN IN THE
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EN ROUTE TO THE US DID NOT COUNT FOR
THESE PURPOSES), AND IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF FINDING THE
RIGHT COUNTRY--THAT IS, HE ACKNOWLEDGED, A DEMOCRATIC ONE.
THE OFFICIAL DID NOT, HOWEVER, CONFIRM THE VENEZUELA STOP,
ALLUDING TO THE COMPLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL STOPS. IT
APPEARS NEVERTHELESS THAT A STOP IN CARACAS IS TO BE
MADE, BUT THAT THE DETAILS ARE STILL TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.
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